

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2004
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on March 23, 2004 at 12:15 p.m. at Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, McCuen Meeting Room, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chairperson
 Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson
 Marc Adelman
 Donna Andrews
 Rod Diridon, Sr.
 Bob Giroux
 Lynn Schenk

Members Absent: T.J. Stapleton

Closed Session

The Authority convened in closed session pertaining to potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 11126, subdivision (e) (2) (B) (i).

Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2003 Meeting

Chairperson Petrillo presented the minutes for approval. Member Giroux and Chairperson Petrillo requested the September meeting minutes be revised to reflect their comments made at the Authority meeting relating to the award of the Public Outreach contract. Member Diridon moved to approve the September 23, 2003 meeting minutes. Member Adelman seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes for January 28, 2004 Meeting

Chairperson Petrillo presented the minutes for approval. Member Diridon moved to approve the January 28, 2004 meeting minutes. Vice Chairperson Florez seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Diridon moved to approve the September – December list of meetings for compensation. Member Adelman seconded the motion, which carried, 7-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Petrillo presented the next list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Adelman moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Member Diridon seconded the motion, which carried, 7-0.

Members Reports

Chairperson Petrillo reported that Dr. Ernest Bates, a long time Member of the Authority has resigned. Dr. Bates has been invaluable to the Authority and he will be missed. Chairperson Petrillo reported that he attended the High-Speed Ground Transportation Meeting in Washington, D.C. and met with various members of Congress regarding federal interest and funding of high-speed rail and Member Diridon will report on the details later on during the meeting. The High-Speed Rail Authority is in the midst of a budget crunch and therefore it may take the Authority a little longer to do things and ask that the public be patient at this time.

Member Diridon reported on the current status of the Authority's relationship with the High-Speed Ground Transportation Association.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported that since the last Board Meeting, Authority staff and Consultants have been working on releasing the Draft EIR/EIS, which will be reported on later during the meeting.

Executive Director reported on the budget. The Governor is proposing that the bond measure be removed from the November 2004 ballot. Therefore, the Legislature is discussing possible postponement of the bond measure the following four bills have been introduced: AB2865 Bogh moves the date of the bond to 2010; SB1169 Murray and SB1483 Perata both move date to Nov. 2006; and, SB1256 Sen. McClintock calls for the repeal of the bond

A request for additional staffing was denied by Finance and Patricia has applied for another position and received a tentative offer and will probably be leaving the Authority. As soon as Patricia leaves, we will have no assistance in the office. Therefore, we will put the phone on answering service and we will not be able to make your travel plans. The remaining staff will try their best to accommodate your needs.

Due to the delay in the release of the Draft EIR/EIS, the Authority had to spend more money than anticipated, approximately \$750,000. As part of the May Revise process the Authority submitted a request in January to Finance for additional funding, last week we received word that the request has been denied. Depending on the amount of comments we receive and the additional work we have to do to prepare the final document we may or may not have enough money to do the work that we had anticipated to do.

Discussion of public review period of the Draft Program EIR/EIS and Selection of dates and locations for the Draft Program EIR/EIS public hearings

Chairperson Petrillo reported that the Authority has received numerous requests to extend the public comment period. Chairperson Petrillo reported the three issues before the Board: First re-adopt the public hearing schedule; Second extend the public comment period; and Third because of the all of the interest in and comments related to the route options for going from the Central Valley to the Bay Area consideration of holding one more public hearing in San Jose. Chairperson Petrillo announced that he would now take public comment so that the Authority Members can take the public comment into consideration when voting on the three aforementioned items.

Public Comment

Mr. Olin Woods, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Mr. Woods requested a 45-day extension of the public comment period.

Melissa Hippard, Sierra Club

Ms. Hippard requested an extension of the public comment period.

John Brooks, City of Palmdale

Mr. Brooks requested a 90-day extension of the public comment period and postponement public hearings.

Stuart Flashman, TRAC

Mr. Flashman reported that there are some documents that TRAC has requested and have yet to receive and therefore, requested an extension of the public comment period.

Barbara Hill, California State Parks Foundation

Ms. Hill requested a 90-day extension of the public comment period.

Eddy Moore, Planning & Conservation League

Mr. Moore requested an extension of the public comment period and postponement of the public hearings.

John Woodbury, Bay Area Open Space Council

Mr. Woodbury requested an extension of the public comment period.

Vicki Lee, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club

Ms. Lee requested an extension of the public comment period.

David Underwood, Transportation Involves Everyone; Sierra Club

Mr. Underwood requested that other cities be added to the public hearings such as the city of Stockton. Mr. Underwood requested an extension of the public comment period.

Executive Director Morshed reported extending the public comment period would also be beneficial to the staff as well as the public. After much discussion between Board Members, legal counsel and staff, Member Diridon motioned to adopt the public hearing schedule with two additional public hearings May 26th in San Jose and June 23rd in Los Angeles and extension of the public comment period to August 31, 2004. Member Adelman seconded the motion, which was approved 7-0.

Presentation on the Implementation Plan

Executive Director reported that this presentation is for information only and Al Engel of Systra will provide the implementation plan presentation. Mr. Engel delivered a presentation on the Implementation Plan. A copy of this presentation may be obtained by request.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.